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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Iran/USSR

SUBJECT Revival of Azerbaijan
Separatist Activity

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

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DATE ACQUIRED
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DATE (OF INFO.) Nov 1953

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1. Since the beginning of Sep 1953 there has been a strong revival of the activities of the Azerbaijan Revolutionary Liberation Committee in Baku under the leadership of Nefhsu, who is in constant touch with his followers in Tabriz. The activities of the committee are being backed by the Soviet military and civil authorities but do not have the whole-hearted support of the Communist Party.
2. Party authorities are worried about the uncertainty of the political situation in Caucasus and Georgia since Beria's arrest. The continuing political crisis in Georgia and the constant changes of government have caused the repeated postponement of the revolt planned for Azerbaijan, and the temporary abandonment of other plans against Iran.
3. Ambassador Lavrentiev has continued to urge the Kremlin in the direction of a separatist revolt in Azerbaijan, but the Kremlin is more inclined toward Malenkov's policy of an Iranian Communist revolution headed by the Tudeh. General Smolev and other military commanders on the Iranian frontier have reported that the Azerbaijan social movement is inefficient, and wish to see the revolt placed in the hands of partisans.
4. In the meanwhile the training of terrorists for action in Azerbaijan is being continued at Camp Klara Zetkin in the Caucasus. Headquarters of movement have been transferred from Tbilisi to Mingechaur.

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